

Democratic Socialism

Capitalism in its current form will not get us through the coming challenges. It's based on consumption, and consumption is driving us headlong towards disaster. When people talk about putting the economy back on track, they don't see that the bridge is out just around the corner. The cause of America's declining standard of living for the poor and middle class is that we are buying more and more cheap crap to throw in the landfill or waste energy recycling, and less and less real, tangible, durable wealth.

The cheap, disposable crap currently comprising almost all of the industrial production of contemporary capitalism is an extremely dangerous addiction. We're consuming a very finite resource base and turning it into thousands of poisons, with no thought for the future.

The obvious imperfections of capitalism have allowed vast amounts of money to be controlled by just a few people who, for the most part, don't have the interests of the community at heart, or if they do, they don't really know what needs to be done. The stock market has allowed greed to so poison the world's financial system that it is no longer functioning as a tool for the betterment of the world community.

Like it or not, we live and die as a community. We've allowed too many parasites to live on the global community's energy. This has seriously weakened the global community and could easily kill us. There's no point trying to fix the stock market. It's an old and obsolete system that's been thoroughly corrupted and poisoned by parasites. It's become a den of rats and fleas and ticks. Let it go, and let's move on. We need a system to organize the community's financial energy that is much more immune to greed. If you have money to invest, instead of investing in the cheap toys and distractions of the immensely parasitic stock market, spend the time and energy to personally find and invest in local endeavors that create real, durable wealth. Organized public investment systems are beginning to emerge online, and have the potential to gradually replace the stock market.

We are entering an age of great stress on many of the systems that sustain our civilization, and our ossified systems of finance and government are incapable of finding solutions to our looming decent into disaster. There's plenty of money available to finance the available solutions, but neither government nor finance are investing it in much of anything useful. It's time for some new systems for organizing community energy.

FDR had the right idea. Put people to work building durable infrastructure. Welfare for the unemployed tends to perpetuate a sense of entitlement that is quite destructive to our cultural work ethic and destroys wealth, as it enables people to consume without producing. Instead of paying people to be unemployed or wasting their lives keeping them in prison, pay them to rebuild America. Where the money comes from is of no importance. It's how it's spent that determines our wealth or poverty. Presently, there are huge quantities of money that are not being spent, and most of what the people who control that money are spending is not

preparing us for the wave of entropy we're about to encounter. Money doesn't keep. If it's not competently spent using energy and resources to sustain our civilization, then our civilization won't be sustained.

We've become so accustomed to associating work with a paycheck, that we've forgotten which comes first. Lack of a job is no excuse at all for sitting on your butt. Anyone can look around and see work that needs to be done, even if it's just pulling weeds. If we all just get the work done, we'll all get rich; not in money, but in the real wealth of a comfortable life.

The most important role of democratic government has always been to control the power of money. Large scale democracy is a rare and recent event on this planet. It requires a level of community wisdom, responsibility, and practicality seldom seen in human history. The populations of the world's democracies are becoming severely disenfranchised by the greed of capitalism and corruption, are losing their intelligence and wisdom to the de-evolution of birth control, and their sense of responsibility has defaulted to the distraction of toys.

If the problems that confront us seem overwhelming, don't feel hopeless. Hope is all we've got, so don't lose it. Just do what needs to be done. Hopeless leads to inaction; hope leads to action, and we need a lot of constructive action to get our asses out of this mess. There's an undercurrent of fatalism that reinforces the addiction to pleasure and play that is taking us over the cliff. Don't go there.

There are a number of things that can be done to facilitate more efficient, less intrusive government. First and foremost is immediate and long term investment to reverse the insidious de-evolution of birth control. Vast numbers of people who never watch the news, never had an adequate education, and haven't got a clue or a care what's going on in the world, are raising lots of kids who also haven't got a clue. Well informed responsible people capable of raising educated, responsible children are not. We need a new form of birth control that will entice those without the wit, the will, or the wisdom. Cheap, tasty, and mildly addicting would be a good start.

Because we tend to assume that other people think like we do, it's easy to not notice that, in a democracy where the majority elect our politicians, foolish people are easily duped and conned and elect foolish and corrupt government. The advertising that campaign financing pays for influences those voters least qualified to make informed, educated, rational decisions.

There will be government. In the entire history of humanity no matter what happens, true anarchy only lasts for a brief moment before someone takes charge. If you don't participate in your own government, someone else certainly will, whether you like it or not. In order to replace a bad government, a better one needs to be ready to take over. Revolutions almost always fail because a better system is not immediately ready to step in, and a dictator fills the void. Changing an existing government can be an extremely difficult task, but, with rare exceptions, it's a far better choice than violent revolution.

If we all just do the work and get the things done that provide our basic needs, we minimize the need for government. This requires the realization of community on a much more pervasive local scale. The new global community realized by the new age of instant communication is currently passive. We're spending a lot of time talking and very little time doing. All around the world, people are demonstrating and revolting against oppressive, inefficient, corrupt government, but, meanwhile, the real work that needs to be done to sustain the community is not getting done, and, so far, the result has been steadily increasing poverty. When I see all those people on the streets protesting, I think about what life would be like if all those people were spending that time planting gardens, farms, and forests, rebuilding our infrastructure, cleaning our environment, teaching our children, and generally getting the work done that sustains us. We have an immediate need to turn away from our toys for a while and get to work, but government has become too senile to lead or get much of anything done, and capitalism is insanely addicted to cheap consumption. If we rely on government and capitalism to guide us, it's gonna be grim.

It will take a lot of hope and a fair bit of faith, but hope and faith and a swift kick in the ass from Mother Nature have always been the prime motivators for meaningful changes in human endeavor.